



## **A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE REGARDING THE RIGHTS OF MENTALLY CHALLENGED PATIENTS AMONG STAFF NURSES WORKING AT SELECTED HOSPITALS BAREILLY (U.P) WITH A VIEW TO DEVELOP AN INFORMATION BOOKLET.**

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### **Abstract**

Mental illness raises many human right issues. People with mental disorders are exposed to a wide range of human rights violation both within and outside the health care context. People with mental illness and their families do not exercise their rights, because of lack of awareness that they have such rights, lack of knowledge about how to effectively assert their rights, and lack of confidence in asserting their rights. The most important factor in ensuring patient's rights is the knowledge of the mental health professionals. The objective of the study to assess the knowledge regarding the rights of mentally challenged Patients among Staff Nurses. A Descriptive research Design was conducted at Rohilkhand Medical College & Hospital, Bareilly, U.P. 40 Staff Nurses were selected through purposive sampling technique and data was collected by using structured knowledge questionnaire. The study result showed that 50% Staff Nurses had Moderate knowledge, 2.5% had adequate knowledge and 49.5% had inadequate knowledge. The study concluded that there is a need of continuing education of Staff Nurses regarding the rights of mentally challenged Patients.

**Key words:** *Rights, Mentally challenged patients, Staff Nurses, knowledge.*

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**DOI:** 10.48047/ecb/2023.12.si10.00341

## **INTRODUCTION**

“ There is no greater disability in society, than the inability to see a person as more.”

### **-ROBERT M. HENSEL**

Violation of Human Rights is a common occurrence among mentally challenged persons . Everyone has basic Human Rights so as mentally challenged persons. Everyone has some standards of living for promoting their better health and wellness such as access to mental health care, community living, food, clothing, shelter confidentiality, security during unemployment, disability, old age.<sup>[1]</sup>

Human Rights is defined as the supreme, inherent, and inalienable rights to the life, to dignity, and to self-development. The Constitution of India applies uniformly to every legal citizens of India, whether they are healthy or disabled in any way physically or mentally.<sup>[2]</sup>

The Mental Health Care Bill 2013 was introduced to the Rajya Sabha in August 2013 and following 134 officials’ amendments, passed in August 2016. Properly implemented, mental health legislation such as this plays a key role in protecting the rights of the mentally ill, ensuring access to care, and promoting social justice for the mentally ill, their families and carers.<sup>[3]</sup>

A person with mental illness is entitled to treatment with the same dignity and decency as any other human being. In order to do so the health personnel mainly the psychiatric nurse must be aware of human rights of mentally ill patients can be avoided if the nurse becomes aware of them. When a psychiatric patient enters a hospital, he loses his freedom to come and go, to schedule his day, to control his activities of daily living, freedom to manage his financial and legal affairs and make many important decision because of the loss of these important freedoms, the authorities of health care agencies closely guard and valve those rights that the psychiatric patient value.<sup>[4]</sup>

Originally, people had rights only because of their membership in a group, such as a family. Then, in 539 BC, Cyrus the great, after conquering the city of Babylon, did something totally unexpected-he freed all slaves to return home. Moreover he declared people should choose their own religion. The Cyrus Cylinder, a clay tablet containing his statements, is the first human rights declaration in

history. The idea of human rights spread quickly to India, Greece and eventually Rome.<sup>[5]</sup>

### **NEED FOR THE STUDY**

Mental health today is recognized as an important aspect of overall health status of person.<sup>[1]</sup> In 2019, 1 in every 8 people, or 970 million people around the world were living with a mental disorders, with anxiety and depressive disorders the most common.<sup>[6]</sup>

India with population of more than a billion has highest number of mentally ill persons who require long term care.<sup>[7]</sup>

WHO estimates that the burden of mental health problems in India is 2443 disability-adjusted life years per 10000 population; the age adjusted suicide rate per 100000 population is 21.1.<sup>[8]</sup>

The mentally retarded person has a right to get protection from exploitation, abuse and a degrading treatment. If prosecuted for any offence; he shall have right to the due process of law, with full recognition being given to his degree of mental responsibility.<sup>[9]</sup>

A descriptive study was conducted over 50 staff nurses working in psychiatric wards of general hospital of Bangalore. The result shows that overall mean score was 50% and require continuing education of staff nurses regarding human rights of mentally ill patient.<sup>[10]</sup>

Knowledge regarding Rights of Mentally Challenged persons is very essential to reduce the mortality rate. It is important to have information regarding level of knowledge related to rights of mentally challenged persons among staff nurses so that appropriate interventions can be planned and provided to the patient for its speedy recovery.

### **PROBLEM STATEMENT**

A descriptive study to assess the knowledge regarding the rights of mentally challenged Patients among Staff Nurses working at selected hospitals Bareilly (U.P) with a view to develop an information booklet.

### **OBJECTIVES**

1. To assess the level of knowledge regarding rights of mentally challenged patients among staff nurses.

2. To determine the association between level of knowledge of staff nurse with their selected demographic variables.

### ASSUMPTIONS

1. Staff nurses might have some knowledge regarding rights of mentally challenged patients.

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

**Research approach:** - The Quantitative research approach was used for the study.

**Research design:** - A Descriptive research design was used for the study.

**Setting of the study:**-This study conducted at RMCH hospital of Bareilly (U.P).

**Sample:**-This study was conducted on Staff Nurses those who were fulfilling the inclusion criteria.

**Sample size:** - In this study sample consists of 40 Staff Nurses working at RMCH Hospital of Bareilly (U.P).

**Sampling Technique:** - Sample was selected through a Purposive sampling technique.

### Inclusion criteria:-

- Staff Nurses who are willing to participate.
- Staff Nurses who were present at the time of data collection.

### Exclusion criteria

- Staff Nurses who are not willing to participate in study.
- Staff Nurses who are already participate in another study.

**Data Collection Technique:**-Structured knowledge questionnaire to assess the knowledge regarding rights of mentally challenged patients.

### Procedure for Data collection:-

- Administrative permission was taken from medical and nursing superintendent of RMCH, Bareilly, U.P.
- Written informed consent was taken from the staff nurses.
- Demographic variables and structured knowledge questionnaire was administered to staff to assess the knowledge of staff nurses regarding rights of mentally challenged patients.

### ANALYSIS & INTERPRETATION

#### Section- A: Description of demographic variables of study participants.

Table no. 1: Frequency and percentage distribution of demographic variables of study participants.

N=40

S. No	Demographic variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	<b>Age</b>		
	a) 21-25 years	13	32.5
	b) 26-30 years	21	52.5
	c) Above 30 years	06	15
2.	<b>Gender</b>		
	a) Male	16	40
	b) Female	24	60
3.	<b>Professional qualification</b>		
	a) ANM	03	7.5
	b) GNM	19	47.5
	c) B.Sc. Nursing & Post basic B.Sc. Nursing	18	45
	d) M.Sc. Nursing	00	00
4.	<b>Clinical experience</b>		
	a) 0-3 years	22	55
	b) 4-7 years	11	27.5
	c) 8 & above years	07	17.5
5.	<b>Source of knowledge regarding rights of mentally challenged patients</b>		
	a) Seminar, workshop & conference	09	22.5
	b) Mass media	16	40
	c) Academic education	14	35
	d) Family history	01	2.5

Table No. 1 shows frequency and percentage distribution of demographic variables of study participants & it depicts that age shows majority of the staff nurses 21(52.5%) were 26-30 years of age, majority of the staff nurses 24(60%) were female, majority of the staff nurses 19(47.5%) had GNM level of professional qualification, majority of the staff nurses 22(55%) had 0-3 years of clinical experience and majority of the staff nurses

16(40%) had mass media as a source of knowledge regarding rights of mentally challenged patients.

**Section – B: Analysis based on the objectives**

**Objective 1:** To assess the level of knowledge regarding rights of mentally challenged patients among staff nurses.

**Table no. 2: Frequency & percentage distribution of level of knowledge regarding rights of mentally challenged patient among staff nurses.**

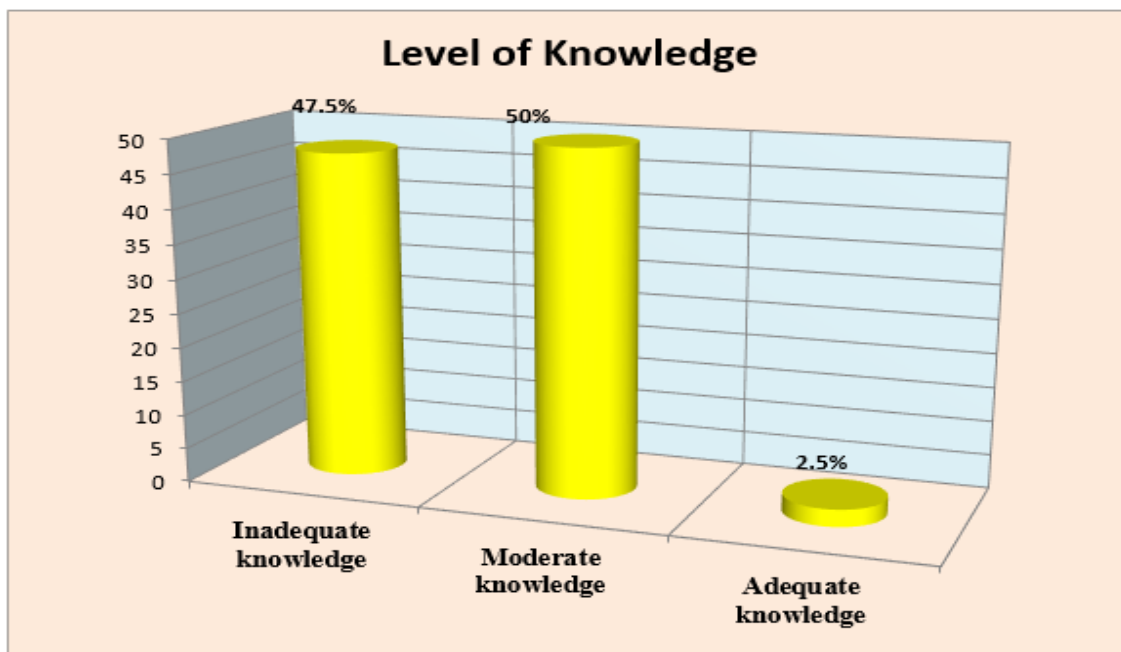
N=40

Level of Knowledge	Score	Frequency	Percentage
Adequate knowledge	21-30	01	2.5
Moderate knowledge	11 to 20	20	50
Inadequate knowledge	0-10	19	47.5

Maximum score=30

Table no. 2 shows frequency & percentage distribution of level of knowledge regarding rights of mentally challenged patient & it depicts that majority of staff nurses 19(47.5%) had inadequate

knowledge, 20(50%) had moderate level of knowledge and 01(2.5%) had adequate level of knowledge regarding rights of mentally challenged patients.



**Figure No.1: Cylindrical diagram showing the percentage distribution of level of knowledge regarding rights of mentally challenged patients.**

**Objective 2:** To determine the association between level of knowledge of staff nurse with their selected demographic variables.

**Table 3: Association between level of knowledge and demographic variables among staff nurses regarding rights of mentally challenged patient.**

N= 40

S. No	Demographic variables	Level of knowledge			Chi-square	df	p-value
		Adequate	Moderate	Inadequate			
1.	<b>Age</b> a) 21-25 years b) 26-30 years c) Above 30 years	00 00 01	08 10 02	05 11 03	6.707	4	0.159
2.	<b>Gender</b> a) Male b) Female	00 01	06 14	10 09	2.763	2	0.253
3.	<b>Professional qualification</b> a) ANM b) GNM c) B.Sc. Nursing & Post basic B.Sc. Nursing d) M.Sc. Nursing	00 00 01 00	00 12 08 00	03 07 09 00	5.710	4	0.171
4.	<b>Clinical experience</b> a) 0-3 years b) 4-7 years c) 8 & above years	00 00 01	14 04 02	08 07 04	7.899	4	0.081
5.	<b>Source of knowledge regarding rights of mentally challenged patients</b> a) Seminar, workshop & conference b) Mass media c) Academic education d) Family history	00 01 00 00	03 09 07 01	06 06 07 00	4.151	6	0.643

**df<sub>2</sub>= 5.99, df<sub>4</sub>=9.48, df<sub>6</sub>=12.59 at p<0.05 level of significance**

Table no. 3 depicts the description about association between pre-test level of knowledge and demographic variables among staff nurses regarding rights of mentally challenged patient. And it shows that there was no significant association between age ( $\chi^2 = 6.707$ ;  $p = 0.159$ ), Gender ( $\chi^2 = 2.763$ ;  $p = 0.253$ ), professional qualification ( $\chi^2 = 5.710$ ;  $p = 0.171$ ), Clinical experience ( $\chi^2 = 7.899$ ;  $p = 0.081$ ) and source of knowledge regarding rights of mentally challenged patient ( $\chi^2 = 4.151$ ;  $p = 0.643$ ). Thus it interpret that demographic variables did not have any influence on knowledge of staff nurses regarding rights of mentally challenged patients.

## DISCUSSION

### Objective-1:-to assess the level of knowledge regarding rights of mentally challenged patients among staff nurses.

Present study showed that level of knowledge regarding rights of mentally

challenged patient & it depicts that majority of staff nurses 19(47.5%) had inadequate knowledge, 20(50%) had moderate level of knowledge and 01(2.5%) had adequate level of knowledge regarding rights of mentally challenged patients.

The supportive study by **Naiju M Punnoose (2017)** on knowledge regarding human rights of mentally ill patient among staff nurses shows that percentage wise knowledge score of staff nurse regarding human rights of mentally ill patient shows that highest percentage (85%) of staff nurse have inadequate and (15%) of staff nurse have adequate (0%) of staff nurse poor knowledge.

## CONCLUSION

The study concluded that there is a need of continuing education of staff nurses regarding rights of mentally challenged patients. It should be made mandatory that topics on rights of mentally challenged patients and other legal aspects be

included in the curriculum of all nursing education programmes.

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